

# Flame Tree Arts Festival returns with flair

**CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
The Poksai Guma Chamorro Dancers showcase their traditional performance last Friday during the 43rd Annual Flame Tree Festival at the Garapan Fishing Base.

**By CHRYSTAL MARINO**  
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CORRESPONDENT

The 43rd Flame Tree Arts Festival drew thousands of spectators to the Garapan Fishing Base over the week-

end to celebrate the arts and artists of the Marianas.

The festival featured 35 artist booths and 11 food and drink vendors that totaled 46 booths in all. The  
**See FLAME on Page 4**

**New juvenile facility to be unveiled on May 6. PAGE 2**

**Marianas Chef Competition on May 18 at Taste. PAGE 3**

*Hafa Adai!*

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**THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER**

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## IPI files for Chapter 11

**By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

**I**mperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, which has been the subject of multiple civil lawsuits amounting to a debt of over \$150 million, has officially filed for bankruptcy with the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Last Friday, IPI filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy with the District Court for the NMI.  
**See IPI on Page 4**

### Bankruptcy petition stops Yeom, IPI from pursuing proposed settlement

**By FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

With Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition in federal court on Friday, it stops Commonwealth Casino Com-

mission executive director Andrew Yeom and IPI from completing their proposed settlement.

*Saipan Tribune* learned yesterday that CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero has been acting  
**See BANKRUPTCY on Page 4**



**KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC's unfinished casino resort in the heart of Garapan.



Manglona

## Manglona confirmed to serve 2nd term as US District Court for the NMI chief judge

**By FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. Senate confirmed on Tuesday the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona to serve

a second 10-year term as chief judge of the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) said in his *e-kilili newsletter* over the weekend that

the Senate's vote, 97-2, seemed overwhelmingly supportive of Manglona, who is the Marianas' first indigenous and first woman judge for the U.S. District Court of the NMI.

Sablan, however, stated that the procedural vote on Monday to bring the nomination to the floor was much narrower with 51 Democrats in favor and 49 Republicans opposed.

The delegate said Manglona has done credit to the community during her service on the bench.

Sablan, in his capacity as the CNMI sole representative in the  
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### INSIDE



#### LOCAL

Capt. Greg May of the Guam Guard was in his last day at Maneuver Captain's Career Course when a National Guard Bureau liaison spoke to the class.

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#### SUPPLEMENT

In honor of the over 50-year Earth Day movement, *Saipan Tribune* reached out to one of the CNMI's champions in advocating for environmental conservation, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero.

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#### LIFE & STYLE

Prince Harry, the son of King Charles III and fifth in line to the British throne, has formally confirmed he is now a U.S. resident.

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# Local

## New juvenile facility to be unveiled on May 6

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The Manhoben Care Center in Susupe, which will now serve as the Department of Corrections' juvenile facility, will officially be unveiled on May 6.

In an interview with DOC Commissioner Anthony Torres, he shared that they will officially be unveiling the new juvenile facility, also known as the Manhoben Care Center in Susupe, on May 6.

Torres previously shared that one of his priorities since coming into office over a year ago was to rehouse juvenile detainees.

The CNMI's juvenile in-

mates have been housed at DOC along with adult inmates since the Kagman Juvenile Facility closed over eight years ago.

"When I got [to DOC], it was one of my top priorities to get our juveniles rehoused while continuing to oversee them and continue to work with them with the help of the Division of Youth services. However, I needed to get a facility to ensure I'm in compliance so I can implement more programs for them," he said.

DOC recently acquired the center to serve as the new juvenile detention center.

"It's been a long time coming but we're almost there.

The renovation process started around January. I want to thank the Department of Public Safety for working with me in giving me the old facility they were using for offices. Once we got that back, we were able to start renovating," he said.

"I want to thank the Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation for [helping us] with some of the funding to renovate the facility. I want to thank Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Department of Public Lands, and of course the Office of Grants Management for helping us acquire second-hand air conditioners for the facility," he added.

## District Court dismisses software company's suit vs. IPI

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
[kimberly\\_esmores@saipantribune.com](mailto:kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com)  
REPORTER

The U.S. District Court for the NMI has dismissed the complaint filed by a software company based in China against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC over nonpayment of services.

Last Tuesday, District Court

for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order dismissing the lawsuit filed by DAC Investment Management (China) Ltd. against IPI alleging nonpayment of an over \$200,000 balance due under an agreement made between IGT Asia Pte Ltd. and IPI.

Manglona dismissed the lawsuit on the grounds of lack of jurisdiction.

"A review of the complaint reveals that subject matter jurisdiction has not been properly pleaded; therefore, the court issues this decision and order sua sponte dismissing the action for lack of jurisdiction and granting DAC leave to amend its complaint," said the order.

In her order, Manglona explains that in its complaint, DAC asserts diversity jurisdiction. However, the court concludes it does not have diversity jurisdiction based on the complaint

as presently alleged, so she is allowing the plaintiff to amend its complaint.

"This court has repeatedly recognized its lack of diversity jurisdiction for parties' failure to adequately plead the citizenship of businesses. DAC has failed to sufficiently plead the citizenship of IPI, which requires dismissal of its complaint. Because DAC identifies IPI as a limited liability corporation, DAC must identify IPI's members and their citizenships. Since the complaint lacks these allegations, DAC had not met its burden to establish diversity jurisdiction," she said.

DAC Investment Management (China) Limited previously sued IPI for nonpayment of software and other services in the amount of \$278,719.06.

DAC, through attorney Michael White, said under an agreement between IGT

See **DISTRICT** on Page 4

## Palacios renominates Angello to PUC board

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has renominated former Northern Marianas College academic administrator Dr. John "Jack" Angello to serve as a member of the Public Utilities Commission.

Palacios recently informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) that he is pleased to re-nominate Angello to serve as a member of the PUC representing the Third Senatorial District, or Saipan and Northern Islands.

The governor said Angello possesses high qualifications

that make him capable of fulfilling the crucial responsibilities of PUC.

If confirmed by the Senate, Angello will serve a four-year term that expires on April 3, 2028.

The Senate Executive Appointments and Government Investigations Committee will hold a confirmation hearing regarding Angello's renomination today, April 22, at 10am.

In June 2023, the Senate confirmed Angello's nomination to serve as PUC board member. He served the remainder of a four-year term that expired on April 2, 2024.

The PUC is an independent commission established by the Legislature many years ago to regulate utilities in the CNMI.



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## PACIFIC REGION'S DATA QUALITY COLLABORATIVE ON SAIPAN PSS

The Pacific Data Quality Collaborative, a five-day convening on Saipan of all state-level Special Education Program directors, program managers, projects leaders, and school district-level officials, officially began last April 15 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan. With the theme, "Addressing Our Common and Unique Needs," the five-day convening is for the Special Education Programs of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The convening was jointly led by the CNMI and Guam SPED Programs and facilitated by the University of Guam CEDDER and the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Data Center, which sent a six-person delegation, and the global assistive technology company TextHelp. U.S. Department of Education's Special Education Program director Valerie Williams delivered the keynote remarks virtually.

## MINA admitted to Hawai'i-Pacific Islands CESU

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance announced that it has been admitted as a partner institution to the Hawai'i-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit with University of Hawaii as its host effective April 5, 2024.

The CESU is a mechanism that assists in the transfer of federal funds to member organizations through cooperative agreements. These funds are used to work on collaborative research, training, service, and outreach projects with partner organizations. HPI-CESU (link: <https://hilo.hawaii.edu/hpicesu/>) is part of the national network of Cooperative Studies Units (CESU) (<http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>), which links federal land-management agencies with universities, museums and other non-governmental organizations that can provide research, training and technical exper-

tise in stewarding natural and cultural resources.

The HPI-CESU program currently works with 12 federal and 19 non-federal members, including universities and local organizations. HPI-CESU is hosted by the University of Hawaii Office of the Vice President of Research and Innovation, but its members can be found throughout the Pacific in Guam, American Samoa, California and Hawai'i and now, with MINA's admission, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

MINA board chair Frank Eliptico stressed the value of this partnership, "The entry into the Hawai'i-Pacific CESU will open many doors for funding that will strengthen MINA's mission to empower our communities for conservation. The work we do today impacts the natural and cultural environment that we

leave for future generations, and this partnership will enhance those efforts."

MINA executive director Roberta Guerrero stated that, "MINA would like to take this opportunity to thank Sharon Ziegler-Chong, director of the HPI-CESU who guided MINA through the application process, and to Thomas E. Fish, Ph.D., National Coordinator, Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units Network for advancing and approval of this partnership."

For more information about MINA and its programs, email [minaoutreach@gmail.com](mailto:minaoutreach@gmail.com), follow them on Instagram @minaoutreach, Facebook /MINAPACIFIC, and visit their website at [www.minapacific.org](http://www.minapacific.org). (PR)

### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for: **NOTICE OF HEARING**  
**J.D.D.L.**  
 Minor Child(ren)  
 By:  
**Maryfrances Danford Lizama**  
 Petitioner(s)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz  
 Clerk of Court

/s/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 By: Deputy Clerk of Court

## Marianas Chef Competition on May 18 at Taste

The 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival is now accepting registrants for the Marianas Chef Competition on May 18, 2024, in Garapan.

The cook-off will challenge 10 chefs to prepare the best beef rib eye steak dish within an hour, incorporating all local produce provided in a mystery box.

Rules and registration forms for the Marianas Chef Competition are available at <https://www.mymarianas.com/taste-of-the-marianas-2024/> and at the MVA offices in Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

The Top 3 winners will receive gift certificates for a local supermarket shopping spree: \$500 worth for first place, \$300 for second place, and \$200 for third place.

"It's no holds barred at the Marianas Chef Competition, and all professional and home chefs are welcomed," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We're excited for the competitors to showcase their culinary skills and creativity under a time crunch, especially with the incorporation of ingredients from the mystery box."

Taste of The Marianas is an annual signature event of the MVA and will be held



every Saturday night from 5pm to 10 p.m. (until 11pm on the final Saturday) during May Tourism Month 2024 at American Memorial Park in Garapan Saipan. The festival is a gourmet's delight, offering some of the destination's best cuisine and entertainment. The festival will feature affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more. Entry is free.

This year's festival eateries will include 38 Mitsubachi, Smokeout by Apu, Cup Bab Korean Restaurant, Ben ki, Yaya's Baked Goods, CK Smokehouse and Salad, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, Fork and Spoon, Great Harvest Bread Co., Herman's Modern Bakery, Lanlan Tea House, Island Grindz, Java Joe's, Kanto

**MVA**  
 Local chefs prepare their entry to a cooking competition at the Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival in June 2023 on Saipan.

10, Kinpachi, Loco & Taco, Tupu Cane Juice, New Matty's BBQ, Oh My Grill, Surf Club, T-Bar, The Hut, Vi- Lyn's BBQ, Saipan World Resort, Ever Trust 123 Food, Aqua Resort Club, Pacific Islands Club, Coral Ocean Point, MARPAC, Napu Brewing, and WSTCO.

Festival Gold Sponsors are American Memorial Park, Bridge Capital LLC and Dave Electronics Center. Silver Sponsors are Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, EST Rental, IT&E, HANMI, Jonny's Bar and Grill, M&C LLC, Lanlan Tea House, Subway, Coca-Cola, and Foremost.

For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez at [rvillagomez@mymarians.com](mailto:rvillagomez@mymarians.com) or (670) 664-3200. (PR)

### ARMATECH



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### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 06-2024

Opening date: April 15, 2024

Closing date: May 03, 2024

Location: SAIPAN

SALARY

Position(s): (1) Staff Engineer

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#### Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (5) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the **CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport**. Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 03, 2024**.

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays and austerities, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at [lorna.robert@cnmiports.com](mailto:lorna.robert@cnmiports.com) and [hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com](mailto:hrrspecialist@cnmiports.com) or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

LEO B. TUDELA  
 Executive Director

## Acting chief DPS guest speaker at Chamber meeting this May

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have acting Department of Public Safety commissioner Anthony I. Macaranas as guest speaker for its May general membership meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 1, 2024, from 11:30am to 1pm at the Sunflower Hall of World Resort Saipan.

The Chamber will also share updates about recent and future plans, activities, and more from its committee chairs, while Macaranas will be sharing an overview of DPS initiatives and his plan of action.

Join the Chamber for an informative and delightful discussion, to register for the May general membership meeting, RSVP by visiting the following link: [https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-may-gen-](https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-may-gen-eral-membership-meeting-464?calendar-month=2024-05-01)

[eral-membership-meeting-464?calendar-month=2024-05-01](https://business.saipanchamber.com/events/details/2024-may-gen-eral-membership-meeting-464?calendar-month=2024-05-01) or you may contact the Chamber's office at (670) 234-7150 or send an email at [contactus@saipanchamber.org](mailto:contactus@saipanchamber.org).

The registration fee is \$35 for Chamber members and \$40 for future Chamber members which includes a delicious lunch, networking opportunities, and insightful discussions.

The Chamber is a non-profit organization with approximately 140 members dedicated to promoting the economic growth and development of the CNMI. The Chamber serves as the collective voice of the business community, advocating for their interests, fostering collaboration, and driving initiatives that support the local economy. (PR)



# Shin: Coral Ocean Resort faces vicious cycle of illegal dumping, theft

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Coral Ocean Resort is facing challenges with thieves and people using the public beach located behind the resort as a dumping ground for trash and household items.

» **DPL official says Suwaso Corp. in compliance with its lease**

Brian Shin, who is chief executive officer of E-Land Group and president of Suwaso Corp., and Gloria Cavanagh, who is E-Land Group vice president for the Marianas, shared some of Coral Ocean Resort's challenges during the Senate Committee on Resources, Economic Development and Programs & Gaming Committee meeting Friday on the Department of Public Lands' proposal to grant a new lease to Suwaso so it could continue to operate its resort for another 40 years.

E-Land Group owns the majority share of Suwaso Corp. The company also owns Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Kensington Hotel.

Shin said they have been doing periodic schedules in cleaning the beach area as it's unfortunate that some people are using it as a dumping ground. Shin said after these people use the barbecue area, they never clean it up.

He said they're trying to put bigger trash bins to address the problem.

Shin said they made a few requests to DPL and Department of Public Works and see if they can somehow restrict the area at least for a certain time period so that people don't come and just dump the garbage there.

He said there are also



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

In this screengrab photo from a YouTube video, Brian Shin, chief executive officer of E-Land Group and president of Suwaso Corp., shares their challenges with illegal dumping of trash and theft incidents at the Coral Ocean Resort beach area and premises during the Senate Resources, Economic Development and Programs & Gaming Committee meeting Friday on the Department of Public Lands' proposed new lease to Suwaso.

concerns about "some kind of activities" at the beach site at wee hours.

Shin said they were told that this is a public beach and the government cannot restrict access to the area.

"So what we are trying to do is we try to clean up as much

as we can," said Shin, adding that Mondays are usually the worst to see garbage so they do the cleanup on Mondays and Tuesdays.

"This is a vicious cycle," he pointed.

He said they also have some theft incidents in which golf-

ers are being victimized.

Shin said thieves would hide at the beach area and then find the right moment to steal the wallets when the golfers are putting.

He said they had about six such incidents last year and one or two this year.

"It's a constant battle for us.

I'm not complaining. I'm not blaming any particular individual," Shin said, adding that they are just hoping they can get help from the government to address the problems.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## IPI

From page 1

According to the United States Courts website, Chapter 11 bankruptcy (if granted) essentially provides the entity filing for this chapter of the Bankruptcy code the opportunity to reorganize. This usually means the debtor will have a chance to propose a plan of reorganization to keep its business alive and pay creditors over time.

IPI filed a form 204 last week listing down its creditors with the largest unsecured claims which only includes 20 of IPI's creditors. It is known that IPI has a long list of creditors both in federal and local courts. Based off IPI's form 204 alone, IPI owes its most notable creditors a whopping \$165,814,049.83.

The Top 3 creditors with the highest judgments against IPI are the CNMI Treasury (for nonpayment of casino license fees), MCC International Saipan, and the Commonwealth Casino Commission.

CNMI Treasury reported that IPI owes \$62,010,280. As for MCC, IPI owes the entity \$34,993,862; while the casino investor owes CCC \$17,620,000 for licensing fees and penalties.

Although IPI did not specify in its form 204 how much—in assets—they have left, in a previous court filing, IPI's attorney Michael Chen gave some insight into IPI's financial standing.

Specifically, Chen—in response to former employee Joshua Gray's petition to show cause why the court should not enter an order holding IPI and its executive director in contempt for not complying with a previous order—told the federal court that IPI has no income and has no funds in its bank accounts.

Chen said in his filing that since the closure of its casino operations in March 2020, IPI has had very limited resources and no income.

"To maintain security at Imperial Pacific Resort, IPI has been borrowing funds to pay the current security guards. IPI has great difficulties in finding a lender who is willing to extend any credit to IPI to cover its ongoing operating expenses. IPI has no funds in its bank accounts. IPI has no liquid assets other than assets which are under the control of Clear Management," Chen said.

## 'We remain committed to fulfilling our obligations'

Yesterday, IPI issued a press release stating that although it has decided to file for bankruptcy protection in the federal court, it remains committed to fulfilling its obligations.

"This strategic move is part of a comprehensive plan to restructure its financial obligations and position the company for a resilient comeback in the dynamic gaming industry. Despite the temporary closure of its operations and the financial strain endured during the pandemic, IPI remains steadfast in its commitment to its employees, stakeholders, and the CNMI. Through this reorganization process, IPI aims to emerge as a stronger, more sustainable entity that will continue to contribute to the economic growth and prosperity of the CNMI community," said IPI.

Howyo Chi, IPI director, said IPI's decision to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection was made after careful consideration and with the long-term interests of their stakeholders in mind.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

## FLAME

From page 1

crowd was also entertained by performances from 41 groups, several of which will represent the CNMI in Hawaii for the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture this coming June.

"I'm happy to be here," said craftsman Tyler James Warwick of Galuti Club. Along with traditional carver Albert Emanonipiy, the two specializes in traditional wood carving but also carve stone for accessories and decorations.

Warwick shared "We did a little extra and more decorating this year. I've been here for four nights straight. It's important for us to show up to Flame Tree because this is

for artists. This event is for us. So, we just want to show them that we're still here doing this. We're happy to be here and thankful for the Arts Council for organizing this and giving us the space."

Artists Greg Bacnis and Irineo "Ernie" David create 3-D masterpieces incorporating acrylic paint and natural substances like rocks to give the viewer not only an image but some dimensions to their painting. Their showcase at the festival centered around Saipan's scenic views and lookouts. "We're so happy we participate every year in this event because it's our passion. It's a good place to showcase what we have to offer," said Bacnis.

One of the performing groups heading to Festpac is

Petlas Micronesia Marianas and Key Marciano, a leading member of the group, shared their booth at the festival was to raise money for their trip to Hawaii.

"Every year we would come out, but it's been like three years that we didn't have a booth, but this year we decided to [take part]. But for the past four years, we've been working our way around promoting and helping out everybody. If [Department of Community and Cultural Affairs] needs us for anything we're there."

During the opening ceremony, DCCA Secretary Francisco Rabauliman said, "In the aftermath of all that we've been through, the natural disasters, the pandemic, the ongoing economic hardships,

and the daily challenges that we face, we are healing and continue to heal as well."

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture executive director Gloriana Teuira thanked the event's sponsors and all the vendors and partners for making it a success. She added that she hopes "most of all, that we all come together and celebrate a good weekend through healing, thriving, and bridging."

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios shared that the festival and theme this year serves as a beacon of shared experiences and aspirations

"In the heart of our beautiful island, we're not just celebrating the vibrancy of our arts and culture, but also our resilience and unity as a community," he said.

## MANGLONA

From page 1

U.S. Congress, recommended to President Joseph Biden that he nominate Manglona for a second term immediately after Biden was inaugurated in 2021.

"Thank you for your service, Chief Judge Ramona Villagomez Manglona," the delegate said.

Manglona's first 10-year term expired on July 28, 2021.

Sablan threw his support to Manglona when the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee deliberated recently on her nomination to serve a second term.

He said for the past 10 years, Manglona has proven to be an impartial and thoughtful judge and has become a respected member of the federal judiciary.

At Sablan's and then-gov-

ernor Benigno R. Fitial's recommendation, then U.S. President Barack Obama first nominated Manglona in January 2011. The U.S. Senate confirmed her on July 27, 2011. She assumed office on July 30, 2011.

In April 2021, then-representative Angel A. Demapan and then-senator Teresita A. Santos introduced separate resolutions expressing strong support for Manglona's

re-nomination and encouraging then-governor Ralph DLG Torres and delegate Sablan to submit to Biden their recommendation for the re-nomination.

Last September, Biden renominated her for the second term.

Prior to her first nomination, Manglona was a Superior Court associate judge. In 2002, she served as the CNMI attorney general.

## BANKRUPTCY

From page 1

on behalf of Yeom in the settlement discussion with IPI throughout last week because Yeom's temporary contract as executive director expired last April 13.

In response to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiry, Yeom said yesterday that with the filing

of bankruptcy petition, now they will have to see how that plays out on the case whether to revoke or not IPI's exclusive gaming license.

"Nevertheless, it isn't the end of the world. It all depends on how their reorganization plan can be worked out, the CNMI government being the largest and the most critical creditors. We'll see and always hope for the

best," Yeom said.

Under Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a company is allowed to stay in business and restructure its finances and operations.

As this developed, CCC board vice chair Rafael S. Demapan on Friday issued a notice to hold a special board meeting today, Monday, at 1:30pm.

Demapan said the pur-

pose of the special meeting is to continue the board members' deliberation whether to revoke or not IPI's gaming license.

It is not clear whether Demapan issued the notice before or after IPI's filing of bankruptcy petition.

Demapan has been presiding over the revocation matter because DeLeon Guerrero refused from the case.

## DISTRICT

From page 2

Asia Pte Ltd. and IPI that was signed on Nov. 18, 2016, IGT was to provide software and various other services to the casino operator.

In turn, IPI agreed to make certain payments to IGT. However, IPI allegedly failed to do so, leaving IGT with an

unpaid claim against IPI.

On March 19, 2024, IGT entered into a debt purchase agreement with DAC, pursuant to which IGT sold and transferred to DAC all of IGT's right, title, and interest in its claim against IPI.

"DAC now seeks to recover from IPI the principal sum of \$278,719.06, together with interest and attorney's fees," the lawsuit said.



# OIA announces \$3.8M in TAP grants for territories, FAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs announced \$3,764,070 in fiscal year 2024 Technical Assistance Program funding will be awarded to various programs for American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. The cross-cutting funds will support civic and higher education programs for students,

continue retiree benefits, provide water quality technical support and training, support natural resource conservation, and fund judicial training.

"We are very pleased to support these important programs and especially the benefits that they will provide across the various Insular Areas, ranging from civic education for youth, to retiree benefits, to judiciary training and the promotion of natural resource conservation in the Mariana Islands region," said Carmen G. Cantor, assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs.

The Technical Assistance Program financial assistance provided is described as follows:

■ **Close Up Foundation**—\$1,000,000 will support participation by students from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states in the Close Up Washington Student Program and related activities.

■ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**—\$794,959 will continue the EPA Freely Associated States Circuit Rider program for water quality technical support and capacity building, as well

as support laboratory certification programs in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

■ **Prior Service Trust Fund Administration**—\$644,900 will provide continued benefit payments to retirees of the former administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

■ **Junior State of America Foundation**—\$501,692 will support academic, college preparation programs for students from the U.S. territories and the freely associated states.

■ **Western Interstate**

Commission for Higher Education—\$399,300 will fund membership to WICHE for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau, which will provide increased postsecondary opportunities at reduced tuition costs for students from these areas at schools in the WICHE network.

■ **Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit Pacific Islands Committee**—\$339,839 will fund essential judicial education training programs for the judiciaries of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

■ **Tāno Tāsi yan Todu**—\$83,380 will support the Mar-

ianas Islands Conservation Conference in Guam.

The assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs and the Office of Insular Affairs carry out the secretary of the Interior's responsibilities for the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Additionally, OIA administers and oversees federal assistance under the Compacts of Free Association to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau. OIA also administers a discretionary Technical Assistance Program for all the Insular Areas. Find information about OIA and its work on [www.doi.gov/oia](http://www.doi.gov/oia), Facebook, X, and YouTube. (PR)

## Guam Guardsman earns Blade Runner award

BARRIGADA, Guam—Capt. Greg May of the Guam National Guard was in his last day at Maneuver Captain's Career Course when a National Guard Bureau liaison spoke to the class. "If you're in the National Guard and you're here, you need to try for follow-on schools," announced the liaison.

May looked online and saw Pathfinder School starting in two days. "I don't know anything about Pathfinder, but let me call the schoolhouse and see if they have openings," recalled May, who still hadn't graduated from his current, 22-week course.

There were no openings, but he called and got himself on the waitlist. The next day, after his graduation ceremony, May drove across Fort Moore to the schoolhouse and found a spare bunk in the squad bay of an ongoing Air Assault class. After a night of rest, interrupted briefly by a 2am Air



US NATIONAL GUARD  
U.S. Army Capt. Greg May of the Guam National Guard displays his recently earned Pathfinder Badge at Joint Force Headquarters Guam, April 2, 2024. May volunteered for Pathfinder School with two days' notice and despite a series of retests, beat the odds earning the honorary title of "Blade Runner."

Assault wake-up, he showed up for "Day Zero" of Pathfinder School and was allowed to join. He was in.

U.S. Army Pathfinder School is a three-week course where students navigate terrain, establish and operate day and night helicopter and air-plane landing and drop zones, conduct sling-load operations, provide air traffic control and navigational assistance to airborne operations, and more. Certain classes in Pathfinder School involve lengthy mathematical equations and calcu-

lus. Others require a mastery of load-bearing physics, and even close-combat tactics.

The highly technical course has an attrition rate of about 50-60 percent.

According to May, many Pathfinder students are senior-ranking officials, some with months of preparation. Some were taking the course for their second or third try. In contrast to this, he said "I might as well have fallen in through the roof. I had no idea what I was in for."

"I failed every single phase,"

said May. "I failed the entrance exam, I failed the phase one and two exams, and of the six sections in phase three, I failed four of them. Even though I had an hour to study for my retests, the process made me question myself. Am I good enough to be here?"

Being on the edge of dropping out of the course, but continually finding a way to survive, earned him the unofficial title of class Blade Runner. As a Pathfinder graduate, it's a title he wears as a badge of honor.

"In a way, I was prouder of that than if I had made the commandant's list," said May. "I just kept thinking, I'm giving it my best and if I fail, I fail. But at least I can say I tried. And as a 40-year-old, I can set the example for my Soldiers of being resilient. If they keep grinding and keep pushing themselves, especially when no one is watching, over time the opportunities will come." (PR)

## EARTHQUAKE BRIEFS

### 5.0-magnitude earthquake on Saipan

At 1:42pm April 20, 2024, a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred at 207 kilometers north-northwest of Saipan, Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

### 4.7-magnitude earthquake on Saipan

At 12:05am on April 19, 2024, a 4.7-magnitude earthquake occurred at 134 kilometers east-northeast of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.

Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)

### 4.6-magnitude earthquake on Saipan

At 4:45am on April 19, 2024, a 4.6-magnitude earthquake occurred at 129 kilometers northeast of Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

For more information, please contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at (670) 237-8000. (PR)



### SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Office of the Mayor  
Municipality of Saipan

### NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 et seq., as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) Board is hereby giving notice of its regular board meeting, to be held on April 22, 2024, at 3:00 p.m., Office of SHEFA conference room, 2nd Floor, CTC Building, Oleai, Beach Road, Saipan.

### AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
  1. Call to Order
  2. Roll Call
  3. Adoption of Agenda
  4. Adoption of Minutes from March 4, 2024
- II. Public Comment (s)
- III. Committee Reports
  - a. Committee on Awards
  - b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
  - c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
  - d. Committee on Program and Development
  - e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative, and Community Affairs
- IV. Administrator's Report
- V. Chairman's Report
- VI. Old Business
  1. 2023 Annual Report
- VII. New Business
  1. Spring 2024 Application Status
  2. Temporary Suspension of Financial Assistance for Doctorate/Advanced Degrees
  3. Increase in Grant-In-Aid for Undergraduate
- VIII. Executive Session – Appeals (1)
- IX. Miscellaneous Matters
- X. Next Meeting
- XI. Adjournment

/s/ Ms. Kaelani B. Demapan- Chairwoman, Board of SHEFA Directors

P.O. Box 10001, PMB 3648 Saipan, MP 96950-8901  
Tel: (670) 233-5995/235-1020/21 • Telefax: (670) 233-5996  
E-mail: [saipanshefa@gmail.com](mailto:saipanshefa@gmail.com) • Website: [www.saipanshefa.com](http://www.saipanshefa.com)



### Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.

Tel.: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601

E-mail: [ppmo@marianas.edu](mailto:ppmo@marianas.edu)

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

#### NMC RFP 24-001 RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Northern Marianas College – Department of Financial Services Unit is soliciting competitive sealed bids for Proposal of a RENTAL PROPERTY FOR THE CREES CENTER FOR AQUACULTURE DEVELOPMENT

The bid packet may be picked up at the NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. P, commencing Tuesday, March 26, 2024 between the hours of 9:00-11:30a.m. and 1:00-4:00p.m. Electronic packet may be requested to Odin C. Garces at [ppmo@marianas.edu](mailto:ppmo@marianas.edu).

**Bid Submission Due Date: April 26, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.,** at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. P, Saipan, MP 96950.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the bidder to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the bidder. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/s/Odin C. Garces  
NMC Procurement & Property Management Office



### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CNMI GOVERNMENT

### REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

#### OWNERS/AGENT ENGINEER SERVICES PROJECT NO. CPA-RFQ-001-24

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

In collaboration with the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, CPA is continuing its modernization initiatives of the CNMI's air and seaports through the identification, development, implementation, and completion of major capital improvement plan (CIP) projects that will further enhance the air and seaports' resiliency, sustainability and core capabilities.

Therefore, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Owners/Agent Engineer (OAE) Services with the intent to provide CPA professional services and technical support in the areas of design and engineering services, program management support, financial consulting and analysis, and other related services specific to the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Francisco Manglona Borja/Tinian International Airport, the Benjamin Manglona Taisacan International Airport, the Port of Saipan, the Rota West Harbor, and the Tinian Harbor.

The project is being funded by a grant from the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) and is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater at email address [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or Ms. Nora Vincent at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via email to [wprater@cnmiports.com](mailto:wprater@cnmiports.com) or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2024.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their qualification statements no later than 5:00 p.m. CHST, FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024. All proposals shall be addressed to the attention of CPA's Executive Director, Mr. Leo B. Tudela. Additionally, proposals transmitted via facsimile or email will not be accepted.

The professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria provided in the RFQ package.

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Additional supporting documents that complement the qualification statements are encouraged.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all qualification statements for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

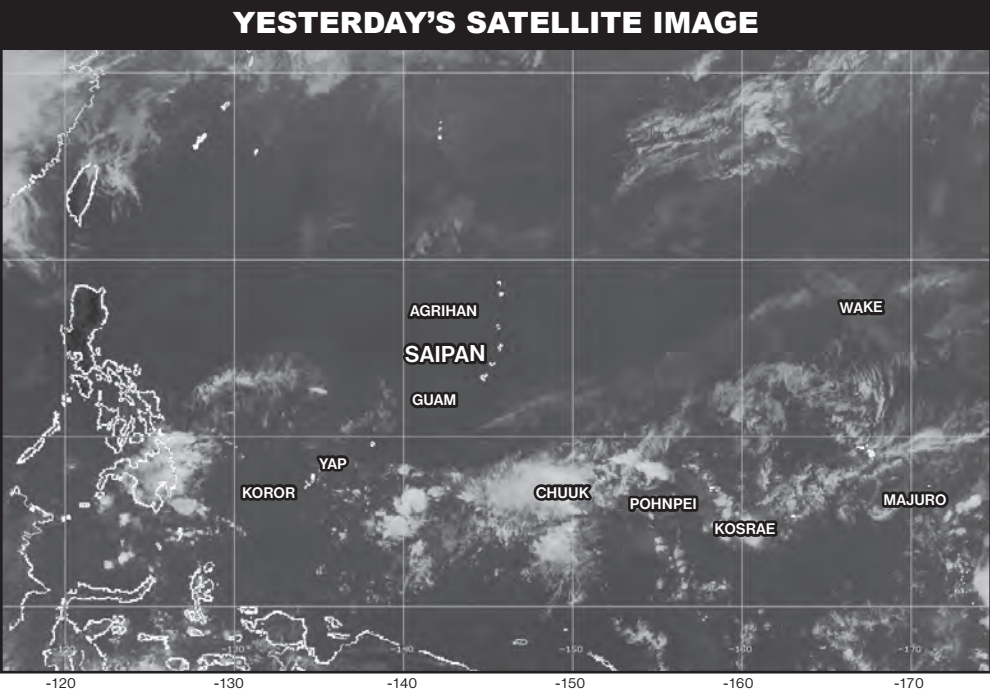
LEO B. TUDELA  
Executive Director

Date: March 14, 2024



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:42 AM SUNDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows fair skies over the Marianas region, although some higher level cirrus clouds are streaming overhead. A weak remnant cold front/shear line is north of the Mariana Islands. Winds are gentle to moderate over the region and combined seas 4 to 6 feet, perhaps near 7 feet toward the northeast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 81°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 80°	
Chuuk	Cloudy	87° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Light Rain Shower	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy/Wind	85° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:58 AM	6:32 PM
Tuesday	5:57 AM	6:32 PM
Wednesday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM
Friday	5:56 AM	6:33 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	4:42 AM	5:11 PM
Tuesday	-	5:15 AM	5:58 PM
Wednesday	-	5:50 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	-	6:28 AM	7:39 PM
Friday	-	7:10 AM	8:34 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	71° / 56°	
Beijing	Fair	74° / 50°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	82° / 71°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	82° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	61° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	67° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	93° / 81°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
New York	Showers	50° / 42°	
Osaka	Rain	76° / 61°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	75° / 57°	
Busan	Cloudy	62° / 54°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	79° / 62°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	59° / 51°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	68° / 45°	
Tokyo	Rain	61° / 52°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	73° / 56°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
12:40 AM	Low Tide	0.67	
6:41 AM	High Tide	1.83	
1:14 PM	Low Tide	0.45	
7:22 PM	High Tide	1.75	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

**NEWS DESK** For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com). Website:[www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

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# Happy EARTH DAY!

## MINA marks 50th anniversary of Earth Day

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

**T**oday, April 22, marks the anniversary of the campaign—started back in the 1970—to shed light on the deteriorating state of the environment and to inspire change in members of the community for the greater good of the environment.

In honor of the over 50-year Earth Day movement, *Saipan Tribune* reached out to one of the CNMI's champions in advocating for environmental conservation, Mariana Islands Nature Alliance executive director Roberta Guerrero.

In an interview with Guerrero, she shares how MINA came to be in the first place.

"The founders of MINA recognized the need to initiate collaborative efforts between the public and private sectors that would increase the effectiveness of conservation efforts in the CNMI. A workshop facilitated by The Nature Conservancy was held to share ideas, invigorate the nonprofit environmental community, discuss potential collaboration and formulate plans that would address filling in the gaps in conservation that existed at the time," she said.

After MINA founding fathers reached out to The Nature Conservancy to facilitate the first workshop aimed towards bringing both the CNMI private and public sectors together in the fight to preserve the CNMI's environment back in the early 2000s, MINA was born.

"The outcome of this initial meeting was the founding of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance with the proclamation that 'There is a clear understanding that we, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, have the right and responsibility to act as stewards of our own natural inheritance. We feel that community involvement in conservation and management is the only way to achieve long-term preservation of our resources, and that NGO's can mobilize this involvement.' Thus began the journey to establish a 501(c)(3) Non-profit Corporation, the Mariana Islands Nature Alli-



Contributions for conservation can be made by clicking on the link below that connects to MINA's PayPal and online volunteer applications.

ance, which became official in May of 2005," said Guerrero.

After their establishment, MINA's first funded project was the Obyan rehabilitation that prevented vehicles from driving on the beach due to the presence of sea turtle nesting sites.

Since their establishment, has achieved numerous wins in terms of environmental conservation; the most notable being its Habitat Restoration project where they were able to work with partners and volunteers to remove over 79,000 lbs of debris from our oceans.

"MINA's tangible outcomes of the programs currently being implemented have data to support the continuation and sustainability of these programs. Of specific note are the results of a major Habitat Restoration project with more than 79,047 lbs of marine debris removed over the past two years, and a total of 1,861 acres under water habitat restored. Another major win for MINA is community engagement with more than 1,500 volunteers coming out to support events such as beach cleanups, plastics sorting, and tree planting," said the executive director.

Meanwhile, this year's Earth Day celebration theme is "Planet vs. Plastics." When asked about what MINA's initiatives are in terms of battling plastic pollution in the CNMI, Guerrero said one of its long-ongoing projects in relation to this problem is its "Adopt-a-bin" campaign.

"We've all witnessed plastic pollution on land and sea. Litter can be found on our public beaches and other areas, including illegal dumpsites. Absolutely, plastic pollution is a problem

on our islands. It harms our environment, human health, economy, and is a serious threat to our island ecology, causing ingestion, entanglement, and habitat damage."

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)



### THANKS FOR VISITING CNMI'S NURSERY!

The CNMI Nursery Facilities grow native and non-native trees. Tree seedlings are distributed to community members and organizations and are provided during urban and community forestry planting events.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

CNMI was recently awarded \$150,000 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to renovate and upgrade nursery facilities on the islands of Saipan and Rota. These upgrades will allow for CNMI Forestry to increase the number of plants available for distribution!

After visiting the nursery, it is important that you provide the proper care to your new seedlings. See the guide below on planting and caring for your seedling!

#### PLANTING

1. Identify the proper location for your seedling (be sure to consider sunlight and access to water).
2. Dig a hole twice as wide as the plant pot, and deep enough to cover the entire pot.
3. Carefully remove any packing material such as plastic containers or tags.
4. Place the seedling in the center of the hole.
5. Fill the hole with soil and add mulch on top (if appropriate). Be careful not to stamp on the soil too hard. You do not want to compact the soil.
6. Make sure the soil remains wet by looking and watering twice a week.

#### CARING

Once your seedling is planted and begins to grow, it will be important for you to check in on it regularly.

Keep in mind the three tips below:

1. Water regularly. Each plant needs different amounts of water. It is important to make sure the soil does not become too dry.
2. If it hasn't rained in a while, you may need to water more often.
3. Monitor for pests.



### Thank you for planting trees in CNMI!

Trees provide many benefits including shade, access to healthy food, medicine, and natural beauty!



To learn more, contact CNMI Forestry's Stewardship Program at 1-670-256-3318.



This was developed in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, CNMI Forestry, and the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition.

Photos: Pedro Tudela, Saipan Island. Resources: CNMI 2024 State Fact Sheet





## Every Day Should be Earth Day.

**Earth Day is an annual call to action to protect our environment, but actions should continue even after Earth Day. As OPD and its planning partners works to build a more sustainable CNMI for current and future generations, we call on everyone to celebrate Earth Day, every day.**

[HTTPS://WWW.OPD.GOV.MP](https://www.opd.gov.mp) @CNMIOPD670  
CNMI OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT @CNMIOPD

## CNMI generates 34,000 tons of waste annually

The CNMI Office of Planning and Development conducted a waste characterization study for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Through that study, it was found that the CNMI on average generates around 34,000 tons of waste per year. Of that total, around 6,000 tons—or almost one-fifth of the CNMI's waste—is plastic waste.

The theme of Earth Day this year is "Planet Versus Plastics," and OPD is charting a sustainable path forward for plastic waste recycling and reduction in the CNMI. OPD is leading the development of the CNMI Comprehensive Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, which will set forth a detailed five-year plan to manage Saipan, Tinian, Rota, and the Northern Islands' solid waste, including plastic.

Through stakeholder input and close collaboration with OPD's planning partners and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, work is ongoing to ensure that the draft CISWMP complies with the EPA's standards and that the projects and objectives within the plan are tailored to the CNMI.

Proposed priority proj-

ects within the CISWMP to address the CNMI's plastic waste include developing recycling programs for offices and schools, Citizens Convenience Centers with recycling, and an environmental education and recycling center.

OPD believes that every day should be Earth Day. Even after today, OPD encourages the community to:

■ Stay informed about the effects plastic waste has on the environment,

■ Make behavior changes such as opting for reusable cutlery and plates over single-use plastic,

■ Call on and write to your local lawmakers to support environmentally-focused legislation, and

■ Do anything else you can to raise awareness to this global issue.

Learn more about OPD, its current projects, and more at [opd.gov.mp](https://opd.gov.mp). Keep up with OPD on social media @cnmiopd670 on Facebook, @cnmiopd on Instagram, and CNMI Office of Planning and Development on LinkedIn. For more information, and to join OPD's mailing lists, you can email [planning@opd.gov.mp](mailto:planning@opd.gov.mp). (PR)

These are the **top five** Marine Debris plastic items collected in the NMI in 2023.

**Which ones have you used today?**

- 1 Beverage bottles
- 2 Bottle Caps
- 3 Grocery bags
- 4 Food containers
- 5 Straws/stirrers

Join MINA's  
Plastic  
Recycle  
Efforts!



APPLY TO  
VOLUNTEER  
WITH US!



**mina**  
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

Source: Ocean Conservancy International Coastal Cleanup



**HAPPY  
EARTH DAY!**

May our actions today contribute to  
a brighter and greener tomorrow.

From the management & staff of

**Saipan Tribune**  
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



Happy Earth Day, CNMI!

# EMBRACING *Nature* EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES:

Achieving Regenerative Development  
Goals Together.

From the Northern Marianas College -  
Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services



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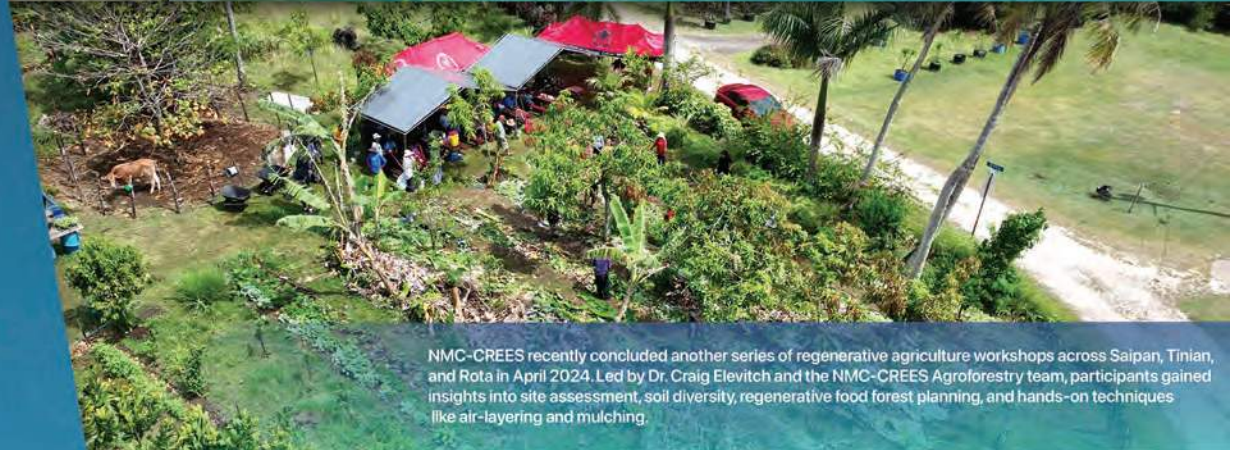
crees@marianas.edu



670-237-6843



NMC is pioneering regenerative efforts in the CNMI and championing the Green Growth Initiative with public, private, and non-profit stakeholders, paving the way for a regenerative future for our islands and communities.



NMC-CREES recently concluded another series of regenerative agriculture workshops across Saipan, Tinian, and Rota in April 2024. Led by Dr. Craig Elevitch and the NMC-CREES Agroforestry team, participants gained insights into site assessment, soil diversity, regenerative food forest planning, and hands-on techniques like air-layering and mulching.



NMC-CREES partners with MINA, NMC-ENRO, and 4-H Marianas for a training session on the Community Recycles Plastics Project, addressing plastic pollution in the CNMI through recycling. Participants learned about recycling's importance, sorting methods, and used the 3-in-1 Microcycler Machine to transform plastic waste.

# Happy Earth Day, Marianas!

Earth Day is not just about a single day of observance but rather a continuous commitment to promoting environmental consciousness and taking tangible steps towards ensuring a healthier planet for all living beings. Let's unite in celebration of Earth Day to pay tribute and remind us of our collective responsibility to the beauty and diversity of our planet. Every effort matters in protecting and preserving our home for the well-being of future generations.

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## Joe Biden should commit to presidential debates

**J**oe Biden famously ran a basement campaign during his successful 2020 presidential bid. But he emerged to participate in two debates with his opponent, Donald Trump. Will he agree to share the stage this fall? He'd better.

Last week, five major TV networks—ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN and Fox—sent a joint letter to Biden and Trump urging the two presumptive major party nominees “to publicly commit to participating in general election debates” leading up to the November election.

“General election debates have a rich tradition in our American democracy,” the group wrote. “There is simply no substitute for the candidates debating with each other, and before the American people, their visions for the future of our nation.”

The Commission on Presidential Debates—a vehicle that the Democratic and Republican parties created four decades ago to sponsor, produce and monopolize the presidential debates—has scheduled three such gatherings for Sept. 16, Oct. 1 and Oct. 9. But whether both candidates will show—and whether any third party hopefuls will be invited—remains unclear.

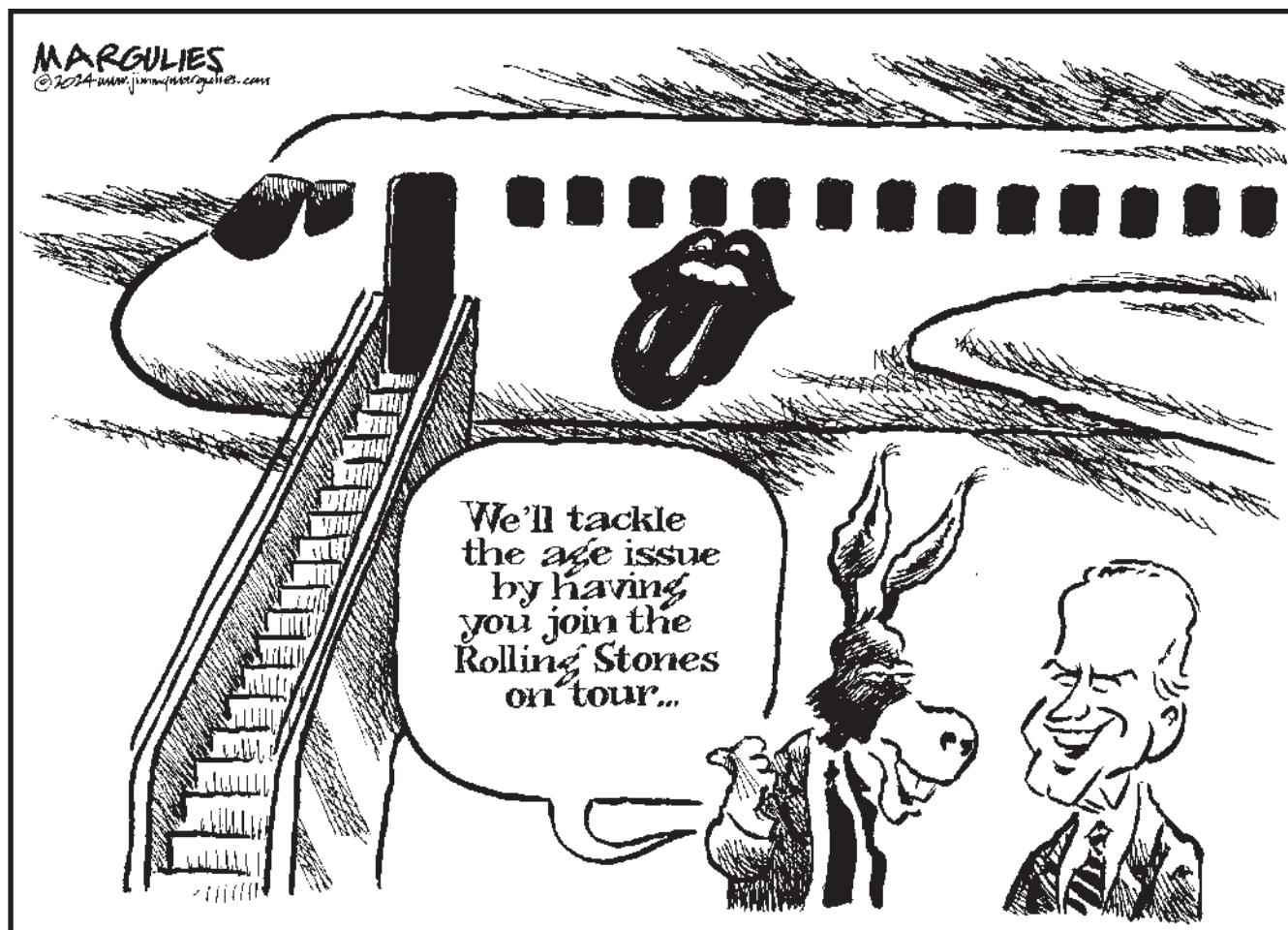
Trump, for his part, insists he's rarin' to go and will debate Biden “anytime, anywhere, anyplace.” If only he'd embraced the same attitude during the GOP primaries. Biden, meanwhile, has played it coy. In March, he told reporters that he was open to the idea, but that the decision to debate Trump “depends on his behavior,” whatever that means.

Critics have increasingly maintained that the debates—held in every presidential election year since 1976—have outlived their usefulness and devolved into raucous shouting matches involving partisan talking points rather than thoughtful give-and-take. But this misses the point. Modern political campaigns now attempt to “control the message” through social media and interviews with friendly news outlets. Debates have become even more important because they help voters assess candidates in a more free-wheeling environment.

Debates “introduce candidates to the public,” Jennifer Tiedemann, executive editor of Discourse magazine at George Mason University's Mercatus Center, noted in a January op-ed for The Hill. “They allow voters to size up candidates and compare ideas, issue stances, personalities and temperaments with the goal of helping them make informed decisions at the ballot box.”

Biden is the president of the United States. “More than any president in recent memory, Biden, 80, has taken steps to reduce opportunities for journalists to question him in forums where he can offer unscripted answers and they can follow up,” The New York Times reported last year. Questions about his mental acuity hang over his re-election. He owes it to the American people to commit to the debate process, no strings attached.

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## Jan. 6 case will test the Supreme Court's hypocrisy

**O**n Tuesday, the Supreme Court's conservative majority appeared skeptical that prosecutors could use the Sarbanes-Oxley Act to go after Jan. 6 rioters. It's a closely watched case in part because Special Counsel Jack Smith also cited this statute in his criminal charges against former President Donald Trump.

As a matter of statutory interpretation, it would be plausible to say that the relevant part of the statute shouldn't apply to Trump or the rioters: it is part of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and was originally aimed at preventing the destruction of documents to thwart criminal investigation.

The problem is that the court's conservatives are officially textualists. That is, they believe a statute's purpose shouldn't matter—only its literal language should count. If they nevertheless read the law not to cover the hundreds of Jan. 6 rioters and Trump, they will be demonstrating the utter bankruptcy of textualism as a theory—not to mention looking hypocritical for violating their own principles of statutory interpretation.

The law in question, 18 USC 12(c), first says it's a crime to “corruptly” alter or destroy a document “with the intent to impair the object's integrity or availability for use in an official proceeding.” That's the part that tells you the main purpose of the statute, along with the history of Sarbanes-Oxley, passed in the aftermath of the Enron scandal and aimed at assuring effective oversight of companies. No one thinks this part of the law applies to the Jan. 6 rioters.

Then, the second part of that same section punishes anyone who “otherwise obstructs, influences, or impedes any official proceeding, or attempts to do so.” This is the language used by federal prosecutors to go after Trump and hundreds of Jan. 6 offenders, including Joseph Fischer, the one whose case is before the Supreme Court right now.

The basis for charging Jan. 6 rioters under the statute is that they clearly were trying to obstruct, influence, and impede an official proceeding, namely the congressional certification of the presidential vote. Indeed, they succeeded in impeding that proceeding. If you read the words of the statute in their plain and obvious meaning, they clearly include the Jan. 6 scenario.

If you are a textualist when it comes to statutory interpretation, as all the court's conservatives claim to be, that should be the end of the matter.

According to the textualist position associated with the late Justice Antonin Scalia, legal words mean what they say. If Congress says it's a crime to obstruct or impede an official proceeding, that's what the crime is. That's how the conservatives should be voting here if they have a shred of commitment to

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Bloomberg Opinion

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their preferred theory of statutory interpretation. (Justice Amy Coney Barrett, who clerked for Scalia and is generally loyal to his principles, did seem like she realized this in her questions.)

To reach an alternate conclusion, you really have to look at the statute's legislative purpose—the other leading theory of statutory interpretation, espoused especially by retired Justice Stephen Breyer, who made this issue the centerpiece of his newly published book. The purpose of the law can reasonably be read as restricted to the destruction of documents. Seen through the lens of purpose, the extension of the statute to cover Jan. 6 goes too far.

The problem for the conservative textualist justices is that they can't admit they're looking at purpose. So in the oral argument, several belabored the theory that the word “otherwise” in the law's second section points back to the first part of the law, and therefore textually limits the extension of the law. In this view, the word “otherwise” shows you that the drafters intended to cover as-yet-unimagined methods of altering a document that might not count as impairing its “integrity or availability.”

Maybe so—if purpose were allowed to be part of the analysis. But that kind of interpretation is the polar opposite of what textualism teaches.

Justice Samuel Alito sought to emphasize how broad the statute would be if it extended to any interference with a federal proceeding, hinting it would impinge on First Amendment freedoms. But that is true of other criminal laws, and the way we usually deal with it is by saying they don't apply when they limit freedom of speech or assembly, not by saying they don't apply to core criminal conduct.

Trump is also charged with other crimes on Jan. 6, as are the rioters. There will be other ways to punish anyone convicted of crimes that day. What's at stake, therefore, is the good name of textualism—and the good name of the court's self-professed textualists.

There are some forms of self-contradiction that threaten the reputation of legal theories and the judges who wield them. This case is one.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

missions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

# A litany on how to continue the impacts of Typhoon Yutu courtesy of the EDA

“No good deed goes unpunished.” This idiom conveys the idea even when we do something with the best of intentions, it doesn’t always guarantee that the outcome will be positive. Despite initial efforts to do good the recipients of the good intentions may find themselves facing unanticipated challenges, resentment or ingratitude. This is certainly true of the disaster grants awarded to the CNMI by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, Seattle Regional Office.

Typhoon Yutu wreaked tremendous damage in the CNMI in August 2019, with estimates of over \$600 million in damage. This disaster immediately brought an abrupt end to the primary income of the islands, tourism. In the immediate aftermath, the CNMI government was forced to rely on their own resources and wait for federal assistance. The local Red Cross and other on island relief agencies provided initial assistance and FEMA arrived shortly thereafter to help with recovery. The government was faced with the daunting task of the cleanup, plus scrambling to find funding to continue essential services such as water, power and sewage, salaries for police and other first responders, all with no viable income. Unlike mainland communities impacted by disasters, the CNMI is isolated and any assistance has to cross thousands of miles of ocean. The neighboring island of Guam sent volunteers as did the military stationed on Guam.

U.S. Public Law 99-239 established the U.S. Compact Agreement of Free Association to provide economic assistance, defense agreements, and other benefits to the Pacific nations in exchange for U.S. defense rights and certain operating rights in these nations. It’s a complex arrangement that has significant impacts on populations, services, and costs in various ways that impact the mutual interests of the island nations and the U.S. Therefore, the expeditious recovery of the CNMI infrastructure, and economic recovery of the CNMI is beneficial to the U.S. Department of Defense to protect the U.S. interests from the potential adversaries in the region (example China).

A full year later, in 2019, the president issued a disaster proclamation that included the CNMI as well as California, Hawaii, and other western states impacted by recent disasters. The Department of Commerce, EDA, SRO was tasked with providing disaster assistance for those communities within their jurisdiction, which includes the CNMI. The SRO had a disaster allocation of about \$190 million. The allocation of the disaster funding is competitive and within the SRO there was considerable discussion of how to make the biggest impact with the funding available. Some senior staff favored sending much of the funding to California to areas impacted by wild fires, such as Paradise, California. Others favored providing the CNMI with a larger portion of the funding, because the devastation was near total for the small island nation. The reasoning was that while disaster impacts are always serious with long lasting impacts, California is a large economy with multiple resources and much better equipped to provide assistance to their impacted communities. The CNMI, being isolated with no access to a broader support community, was in a much more precarious situation. Therefore, several grant applications totaling about \$100 million were proposed for the CNMI. In the ensuing months contentious argu-

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit sub-

ments within the SRO came to the final approval meetings and twice the CNMI funding was denied and twice the regional director, A. Leonard Smith, overruled the review committee findings and approved the CNMI funding. Eventually, the headquarters office in D.C. for EDA became involved and was the final authority on the allocation of the funds. The CNMI had prepared an extensive and comprehensive justification for the grants, and produced a short video by Chris Nelson, narrated by Bob Coldeen, that visually demonstrated the impact of Typhoon Yutu and the path forward to revitalize the CNMI economy. The end result were the awards in 2021 of nine disaster grants with 100% federal funding for the following projects:

- 07-01-07128, Commonwealth Utilities Corp, MP
- 07-79-07506, Commonwealth Utilities Corp, MP
- 07-79-07542, N Marianas College WDTC, MP (Nursing and Business Development Center)
- 07-79-07543, N Marianas Tech, MP (Workforce Training Center with Equipment)
- 07-79-07562, CNMI Office of the Governor, MP
- 07-79-07631, CNMI Office of Governor, MP (Sports Complex and Cultural Center)
- 07-79-07645, CNMI Dept of Finance, MP (New Finance building, equipment and software)
- 07-79-07667, N Marianas College CRED, MP (Workforce Development and Training Center)
- 07-79-07769, CNMI Public School Syst, MP (Technical Training Program)

The grants were all approved with the proviso of phased disbursement. This simply means that as the grantee incurred legitimate costs to implement the grant scope of work the EDA would review and approve the expenses and the grantee would be paid immediately and then pay the vendors. The reasoning was that extra ordinary circumstances for impacted communities with little to no resources, require extra ordinary consideration. Mr. Smith had long endorsed this interpretation of phased disbursement for over 40 years. This procedure is a departure from the normal EDA policy for public works grants of not paying for incurred costs up front and instead reimbursing the grantee after they paid their vendors. In addition, no EDA funds are normally reimbursed until the grantee has awarded the construction contracts.

In my seven years working for EDA in the SRO I managed over 200 construction grants and the majority were managed under the policy of reimbursement for expenses paid by the grantee upfront. Only about a dozen grants qualified for the phased disbursement policy. The CNMI easily qualified for this policy.

Unfortunately, Mr. Smith retired soon after the approval of the disaster grants, ending 45 years of federal service, mostly with EDA. In the interim, senior SRO staff became acting regional directors. For unknown reasons, they reneged on the phased disbursement policy and insisted the CNMI pay upfront costs and seek reimbursement. Instead of honoring the phased disbursement provision, they determined to use a “phased reimbursement,” which made no sense. Obviously, with \$100 million in disaster grants requiring upfront costs for designs and other expenses the CNMI could not immediately proceed as their economy was essentially dead in the water.

When the new, permanent Seattle regional director was selected, Sheba Person-Whitley, there was some hope that she would honor the phased disbursement policy of her predecessor. She made a visit to the islands and was advised of the dire straits of the CNMI and the hope the EDA grants would be a catalyst to revive the economy. Unfortunately, she followed the lead of the acting regional directors and in a letter dated, Sept. 14, 2023:

“... SRO understands that the CNMI has been hit hard by multiple disasters in recent years, has been struggling to meet staff payroll, and has seen a large drop in tax collection due to lack of spending driven by high inflation.

However, since the initial denial of reimbursement for unpaid costs, EDA has been encouraged to see the CNMI’s efforts to facilitate financing of several of the EDA projects (07-79-07645, 07-79-07631, 07-79-07562, 07-79-07506, 07-79-07806) per the email from Ms. Tracy Norita, Acting Secretary of Finance, CNMI Dept of Finance, dated August 9, 2023. The CNMI is seeking financing from the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT) for a \$20 million line of credit.

This financing would provide the much-needed local funds to pay the cost of project payments as required by EDA in order to request reimbursement of grant funds. To support these efforts, the SRO provided the necessary EDA grant information requested by the MPLT in a memo dated August 24, 2023.

Since the award of these grants, SRO has also been encouraged to see that approximately \$4.8M in costs across three of the grants (07-79-07645, 07-79-07562, 07-79-07506) has been reimbursed consistent with the SRO’s standard practice regarding reimbursement of construction projects with evidence of payment.

In light of these steps to meet SRO’s standard practice regarding reimbursement of construction projects, the request for SRO to provide reimbursement for incurred, unpaid costs on seven

federally funded grants that were awarded to help the CNMI recover from Super Typhoon Yutu is again denied (highlight added)...

This letter was written two years after the award of the disaster grants and she praised the CNMI for being able to spend less than 15% of the disaster funds, in spite of the bureaucratic hurdles put up by her office. The CNMI has been forced to concentrate on projects they deem most effective, such as the Garapan Revitalization Project, the central tourist spot on the island, and proceed piecemeal on design work on the other grants. In the meantime, inflation and loss of revenue continues to erode the value of the initial disaster funding.

In another letter dated May 26, 2023 she made the suggestion as follows:

“SRO understands the devastation from the COVID-19 pandemic and rampant inflation and offers as one potential solution that the CNMI obtain a loan to help cover the necessary cash flow for the current grants. Many grant recipients use some form of financing (loans, bond revenue or internal accounting procedures as may be permitted) to help temporarily cover expenses until reimbursement. Any charged interest on a loan is an allowable expense under the grant award.”

The CNMI has struggled with minimal resources to get designs started on the grants,

but can only do minimal work. To suggest the CNMI get a “loan” to cover upfront costs for a 100% federally funded disaster program, then to deduct those expenses from the grant amount is ludicrous. Furthermore, to further justify denial for phased disbursement she states in the May 26, 2023 letter:

“In addition to reviewing this request for consistency with SRO’s standard practice regarding reimbursement, an assessment of current grant performance, single audit findings, and on-going reimbursements on CNMI grants were taken into consideration.”

This statement is akin to telling a drowning person, that you can throw him a life preserver, but he has to swim over to get it first. In regards to her reference to the outstanding audit findings, Grant No. 07-79-07645 for the Department of Finance is specifically to design and construct a new Finance center complete with modern accounting tools. Typhoon Yutu destroyed financial records and equipment hampering record keeping, retrieval and any expeditious audit efforts.

These letters are discouraging and appears to reflect a lack of appreciation for the current economic status of the CNMI. She appears to forget the disaster funds were made available to the CNMI by Congress apart from the normal EDA public works annual appropriation. To reiterate, the funds were to address extraordinary circumstances, and should be spent as expeditiously as possible, under the original phased disbursement agreement. In my time at EDA, I never had any issue with phased disbursement grants, but had plenty of problems with grants where the grantee had cost sharing with EDA. In several instances, the grantee share became unavailable, legal issues would prevent the funds from being available or other issues would necessitate termination of the grants. Hence, it made sense to only reimburse on actual approved up-front costs.

The Palacios administration proposed a workaround solution to the EDA requirements by requesting MPLT to provide a bridge loan to pay the grant expenses upfront and then use the EDA reimbursement as a revolving fund to get the grants designed and constructed. The deadline for the completion of the grants is in 2025, so time is critical to complete designs, bid construction and do the actual work. However, the MPLT funding requires CNMI Legislature approval and after a year this approval has yet to be given.

As a former resident of the CNMI and a retired employee of the EDA, I was part of the group that prepared the disaster grant applications and followed them through to final approval. It has been frustrating to witness the bureaucratic hurdles placed upon the CNMI. The stated role of by the Department of Commerce for the EDA is not being met with these grants.

“EDA’s flexible programs and structure enable nimble operations and allow for innovation and responsiveness to changing economic needs and conditions faced by its local and state government partners...”

These projects should be under construction and near completion but continue to languish. The current CNMI administration has tried their best to get funding for the upfront costs and has had some success, but the disaster awards are very large and without the MPLT loan it is unlikely the grants will be designed and constructed in the remaining time.

**Stanley Good**

P.E. (retired), former EDA employee, and resident of the CNMI



# Life & Style

## Britain's Prince Harry formally confirms he is now a US resident

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry, the son of King Charles III and fifth in line to the British throne, has formally confirmed he is now a U.S. resident.

Four years after Harry and his American wife, Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, decamped to a villa in



Prince Harry

Southern California, a travel company he controls filed paperwork this week informing British authorities that he has moved and is now "usually resident" in the United States.

The formal acknowledgment underscores the prince's increasing estrangement from

Britain, after he and Meghan walked away from royal duties to pursue lucrative media deals in America. Since then, Harry has repeatedly criticized the royal family, including allegations of unconscious racism that were included in a Netflix series and the prince's autobiography, "Spare."

The paperwork was filed

by Travalyst Ltd, a company at least 75% owned by Harry and which was founded in 2020 to "to promote global awareness of the importance of sustainable tourism." The documentation was received Monday by Companies House, the government agency that oversees the incorporation of U.K. companies.

The filing further separates

Harry from his role as one of the king's counselors of state—members of the royal family who can be deputized to carry out the duties of the monarch if he is unwell or out of the country.

While Harry formally remains a counselor of state, the crown informed Parliament in 2022 that "in practice" only working members

of the royal family would be called upon to fill in for the monarch.

Although Harry and Meghan, also known as the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, have put down roots in the wealthy enclave of Montecito, where they are raising their young son and daughter, Harry is also facing scrutiny about his U.S. residency.

## Taylor Swift's 'The Tortured Poets Department' is here

NEW YORK (AP)—Taylor Swift has released her 11th studio album, "The Tortured Poets Department."

But just how poetic is it? Is it even possible to close read lyrics like poems, divorced from their source material?

The Associated Press spoke to four experts to assess how Swift's latest album stacks up to poetry.

### IS TAYLOR SWIFT A POET?

Allison Adair, a professor who teaches poetry and other literary forms at Boston College, says yes.

"My personal opinion is that if someone writes poems and considers themselves a poet, then they're a poet," she says. "And Swift has demonstrated that she takes it pretty seriously. She's mentioned (Pablo) Neruda in her work before, she has an allusion to (William) Wordsworth, she cites Emily Dickinson as one of her influences."

She also said her students told her Swift's B-sides—not her radio singles—tend to be

her most poetic, which is true of poets, too. "Their most well-known poems are the ones that

people lock into the most, that are the clearest, and in a way, don't always have the mystery of poetry."

Professor Elizabeth Scala, who teaches a course on Swift's songbook at the University of Texas at Austin, says "there is something poetical about the way she writes," adding that her work on "The Tortured Poets Department" references a time before print technology when people sang poems. "In the earliest stages of English poetry, they were inseparable," she says. "Not absolutely identical, but they have a long and rich history together that is re-energized by Taylor Swift."

"It's proper to talk about every songwriter as a poet," says Michael Chasar, a poetry and popular culture professor at Willamette University.

"There are many things musicians and singer-songwriters can do that poetry cannot," Adair says, citing melisma, or the ability to hold out a single

syllable over many notes, as an example. Or the nature of a song with uplifting production and morose lyricism, which can create a confusing and rich texture. "That's something music can do viscerally and poetry has to do in different ways."

"She might say her works are poetry," adds Scala. "But I also think the music is so important—kind of poetry-plus."

As for current U.S. poet laureate Ada Limón? "Poetry and song lyrics aren't exactly the same (we poets have to make all our music with only words and breath)," she wrote to the AP. "But having an icon like Taylor bring more attention to poetry as a genre is exciting."

### HOW SWIFT USES POETRY ON THE SONG 'FORTNIGHT'

Scala sees Swift's influences on "The Tortured Poets Department" as including Sylvia Plath, a confessional poet she previously drew inspiration from on songs like "Mad Woman" and "Tolerate It."

"Fortnight" uses enjambed lines (there's no end stop, or punctuation at the end of each line) and Scala points out the

dissonance between the music's smoothness and its lyrics, like in the line "My mornings are Mondays stuck in an endless February." "It kind of encapsulates boredom with the ordinary and then she unleashes a kind of tension and anger in the ordinary in those verses," she says. In the verses, she says Swift "explodes the domestic," and that fights up against the music, which is "literary."

Swift's lyrics, too, allow for multi-dimensional readings: "I touched you" could be physicality and infidelity in the song, Scala says, or it could mean it emotionally—as in, I moved you.

Swift has long played with rhyme and unexpected rhythm. "She'll often establish a pattern and won't satisfy it—and that often comes in a moment of emotional ache," says Adair. On "Fortnight," it appears in a few ways. Adair points out that the chorus is more syncopated than the rest of the song—which means Swift uses many more syllables for the same beat. "It gives this rushed quality," she says.

"Rhyming 'alcoholic' and 'aesthetic,' she plays a lot with assonance. It is technically

a vowel-driven repetition of sounds," she adds. There's a tension, too, in the title "Fortnight," an archaic term used for a song with contemporary devices. "There's an allusion to treason, and some of the stuff is hyper romantic, but a lot of it is very much a kind of unapologetic, plain speech. And there's something poetic about that."

"From the perspective of harnessing particular poetic devices, this kind of trucks in familiar metaphors for one's emotional state," Chasar says of "Fortnight."

He says the speaker is "arrested in the past and a future that could've been," using a dystopic image of American suburbs as a metaphor and "cultivating a sense of numbness, which we hear in the intonation of the lyrics."

"But the speaker is so overwhelmed by their emotional state that they can't think of any other associations with politically charged lyrics like 'treason' and 'Florida' and 'lost in America' that many of us would," he says.

The title "Fortnight," he adds, "is totally poetic. It's also a period of 14 days, or two weeks. For most of us 'lost in America,'

it means a paycheck."

### WHAT ARE SOME OTHER POETIC MOMENTS ON THE ALBUM?

"She's making references to Greek mythology," say Scala, like in "Cassandra," which is part of a surprise set of songs Swift dropped Friday.

The title references the daughter of king of Troy, who foretold the city's destruction but had been cursed so that no one believed her.

"She's the truth teller. No one wants to believe, and no one can believe," she says.

Swift is "thinking in terms of literary paradigms about truth telling."

Adair looks to "So Long, London": from the chiming, high school harmonies that open it to a plain first verse, "quiet and domestic," she says.

"That mismatch is very poetic, because it's pairing things from two different tonal registers, essentially, and saying they both have value, and they belong together: The kind of high mindedness and the high tradition and the kind of casual every day. That's something the Beat poets did too, re-defining the relationship between the sacred and profane."

## Grieving friend produces off-the-wall accusations

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a happy, decidedly single woman with a large group of friends who are all married. Most of us grew up together, and all of us have been like extended family for the past 25 years.

This year, one of the wives lost three family members within three months. This has been devastating to her, of course, as well as to all of us as we watch her struggle to regain her footing in this new reality. I know firsthand the pain she's living with.

My problem is, she has started accusing me of having an affair with her husband. Nothing could be further from the truth! I'm torn between trying to remember she is angry and lashing out from her losses and being deeply insulted and angry at her.

I have done nothing inappropriate, nor has her husband. I am shocked that she could think such a thing. We see each other often, and I don't know how to treat her.

FRIEND OR FOE IN NEW YORK

**DEAR FRIEND OR FOE:** I am concerned for your friend. Are you sure she doesn't have other emotional or marital problems besides her grief? That she would accuse you of having an affair with her husband when nothing of the sort is happening could be a clue that something is wrong ... with her.

Treat her with kindness and suggest that she should talk with a marriage counselor if she feels something has gone wrong in her marriage, because if it's true, it has nothing to do with you.

**DEAR ABBY:** Any suggestions on how to motivate a husband? We've been happily married for 35 years. Now he does nothing but read, eat and sleep. I'm not exaggerating. He started reading about 15 years ago when our boys were teenagers. He was an active parent, Boy Scout leader, baseball coach, umpire, volunteer in the church, got his masters, and took a high-energy exercise program, etc. But then he discovered fantasy fan fiction, free stories on the internet written by unpublished authors.

He now reads 16 to 18 hours a day on weekends, plus 10 hours each day during the week. He does nothing else -- no exercise, no house maintenance, nothing. When I asked if he's depressed, he said no, he's just tired and wants to relax. He has regular medical checkups; nothing abnormal there. His career is not high stress—it's office work.

I cannot get him to socialize, and he no longer keeps up with his friends. All he looks forward to is retiring in about a year, but I don't want him to retire just to see him read more. This is making for a very lonely marriage. I am unable to motivate him to do anything.

MOTIVATED IN THE EAST

**DEAR MOTIVATED:** It is time for a frank conversation with your husband. Ask him what he's using the fan fiction bingeing to escape from. Point out that the lifestyle he has adopted isn't healthy for him or for your marriage. Proceed from there to find out if a compromise would be workable.

## DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR READERS:** At sundown, the first night of Passover begins. This major Jewish holiday celebrates the most momentous event in Jewish history—the liberation of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt. Happy Passover to my readers who observe this important holiday.

LOVE, ABBY

■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

■ ■ ■

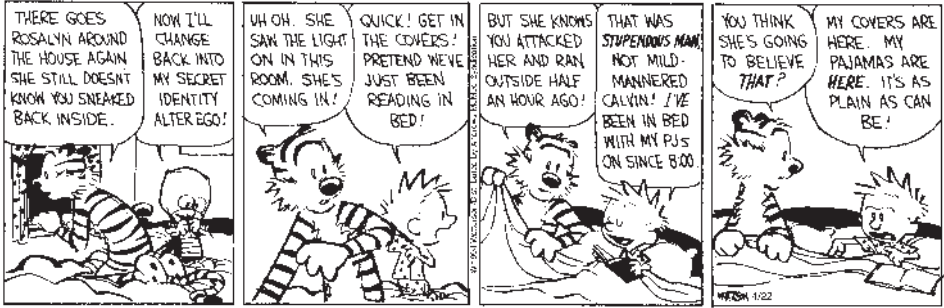
■ ■ ■



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nest egg choices

5 Freudian topic

8 Only

12 1975 Peace Nobel

14 Exam format

15 Sweltering spell

16 Siestas

17 Apr. addressee

18 Kigali's land

20 "Fast Car" singer

23 Excellent, in slang

24 Social standing

25 Cornmeal snack

28 Hostel

29 Big buttes

30 ICU hookups

32 Sail support

34 Dazzles

35 Ceremony

36 Blazing

37 Indig-enous

40 Glitch

41 Flightless birds

42 Tie

47 Big name in oil

48 Impartial

49 Black

50 "Uplume" writer

51 Lawman

4 Comedy bit

5 Eventful periods

6 State VIP

7 Micro-wave for too long

8 Recital

9 Algerian port

10 "Dragnet" org.

11 Super-model

13 Wrong

19 Some vets

20 Numerical prefix

21 Harangue

22 — Domini

23 Rapper's entourage

25 Got more intense

26 Fuzzy fruit

27 Always

29 2004 on a cornerstone

31 Away from NNW

33 Overly proper

34 Crocheted blanket

36 BMW rival

37 Classic soda brand

38 "So be it"

39 Walrus tooth

40 Innocent one

43 Rock's Brian

44 Jargon suffix

45 DDE's opponent

46 QB's goals

Solution time: 21 mins.

Last Friday's Answer

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Amber Heard, 38; Sherri Shepherd, 57; Jeffrey Dean Morgan, 58; Jack Nicholson, 87.

**Happy Birthday:** Collect your thoughts, plan and focus on fulfilling your dreams. Use your imagination and skills to navigate your way forward. Using your skills to manifest opportunities and achieve goals that build confidence and the desire to conquer objectives you have shied away from in the past will make you realize your true potential. It's time to expand your interests, live life your way and embrace what makes you happy. Your numbers are 8, 15, 28, 32, 39, 45, 47.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Step outside your comfort zone and speak your mind, and you'll gain respect and receive encouragement. Changing how you handle contracts and money and upgrading your skills will give you the boost you need to trust and believe in yourself and what you can do.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Look at what you can achieve, and structure your day accordingly. It's essential to recognize your talents and to concentrate on how to make your life better. Talking without action won't satisfy your soul. Use your imagination, and you'll outmaneuver the competition.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Honest communication and fulfilling your promises will keep you out of trouble. Don't expect the same in return, but learn from experience and recognize who you can trust moving forward. Work on your self-esteem, looking and feeling your best, and putting yourself first.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Stick to creative endeavors and people who bring out the best in you. Avoid gifts or donations that compromise your integrity or take away

your power. Have confidence in yourself and your ability. Don't let compliments go to your head or cloud your vision.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Hone your skills, reinvent how to work with what you've got and discuss your plans with someone you can count on for good advice. Don't second-guess what you are doing because of the decisions others make. Do what's best for you and stick to like-minded people.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Pay attention, observe, listen and adjust to what's happening around you. Distance yourself from chaotic situations and manipulative people. Change the dialogue or your direction to complement what you are trying to achieve. Don't let anyone take advantage of you. Protect your money and possessions.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Stick close to home and take care of your investments, and don't let anyone take advantage of you. An emotional situation will help you decide what's best for you. Consider what you need to do before you share your plans. Love and romance are on the rise.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Take the time and reap the rewards. Fixing up your surroundings, putting more effort into self-improvement and creative endeavors, or spending time with someone you love will enhance your life and emotional well-being. Embrace change, chase opportunities and follow the path that encourages joy.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Keep your eyes wide open. Only some have good intentions. Listen carefully, verify the information you receive, and when in doubt, use intelligence, do your research and be willing to take a pass

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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if something doesn't feel right. Put trust in yourself, and you won't be disappointed.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Stick close to home, rethink anything outdated or unused, and declutter your space. Consider new beginnings or consolidate what matters most while making space for new endeavors. Let go of what's holding you back and incorporate a plan that excites you.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Look at your financial situation. Consider your options and make changes that ease stress and give you hope for an independent future. Refuse to let anyone take advantage of your generosity. Direct your intentions into personal improvements.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** A steady pace forward will make a massive difference in how things unfold. Dedication to something you believe in will help you make a footprint that makes you proud. A positive change will lift your spirits and bring about unexpected opportunities. Don't fold under pressure.

**Birthday Baby:** You are curious, flexible and persistent. You are creative and engaging.

• Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. • You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. • Focus and you'll reach your goals. • Aim high; start new projects. • Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



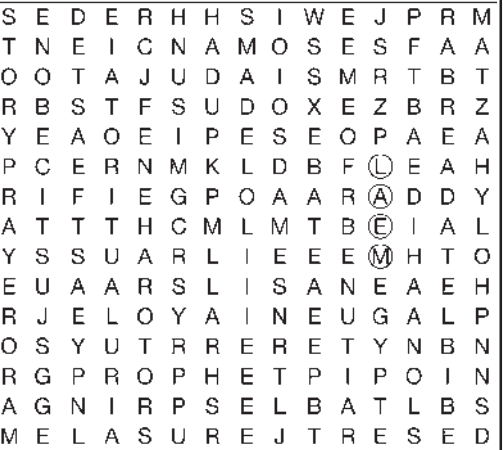
Difficulty: ★ 4/22  
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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them. Circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

PASSOVER Solution: 11 letters



©2021 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/22  
Afikomen, Ancient, April, Bible, Bone, Bread, Desert, Eggs, Egypt, Exodus, Faith, Family, Feast, Freedom, Hebrew, Herbs, Holy, Idea, Jerusalem, Jewish, Judaism, Justice, Lamb, Maror, Matzah, Matzo Ball Soup, Meal, Moses, Nile, Pesach, Plague, Plate, Prayer, Prophet, Recline, Rise, Ritual, Roast, Seder, Sing, Song, Spring, Story, Table, Teas, Temple, Torah, Yeast  
Last Friday's Answer: Party  
To purchase a WONDERWORD books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-5480. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# Mets extend win streak to six, beat Dodgers 6-4

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Starling Marte hit a go-ahead, three-run home run in the sixth and first baseman Pete Alonso made a spectacular rally-killing play in the bottom of the inning for the New York Mets, who beat the struggling Los Angeles Dodgers 6-4 Saturday to extend their winning streak to six games.

The Mets won their fifth straight series and have gone 12-3 after an 0-5 start.

The Dodgers' struggles at the plate continued as they lost for the seventh time in nine games. They went 2 for 12 with runners in scoring position and stranded

13. They've lost three straight series for the first time since June, and three straight series at home for the first time since August 2018.

**RAYS 2, YANKEES 0, 10 INNINGS**

**NEW YORK (AP)**—José Caballero hit a go-ahead double in the 10th inning and Tampa Bay beat New York.

Caballero opened the 10th by lining an 0-2 fastball from Caleb Ferguson (0-3) over center fielder Alex Verdugo to easily score automatic runner Richie Palacios. Caballero stole third and scored on a single by former Yankee Ben Rortvedt.

**TWINS 4, TIGERS 3**

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Bailley Ober pitched six solid innings, and Minnesota stopped a five-game slide by edging Detroit.

Byron Buxton and Austin Martin each had two hits for Minnesota, which scored three runs on sacrifice flies.

Wenceel Pérez, Javier Báez and Kerry Carpenter each drove in a run for Detroit. Matt Vierling had two of the Tigers' five hits.

**CUBS 5, MARLINS 3, 2nd game**

**CHICAGO (AP)**—Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run homer

off Adbert Alzolay in the ninth inning, and Miami beat Chicago in the opener of a split doubleheader.

In the second game Cody Bellinger and Alexander Canario homered and Chicago beat Miami to earn a split of the day-night doubleheader.

**BREWERS 12, CARDINALS 5**

**ST. LOUIS (AP)**—Jackson Chourio followed Brice Turang for back-to-back home runs in the fourth inning, becoming the fourth-youngest player since 1900 with four homers in his first 17 games, and Milwaukee routed St. Louis.

Rhys Hoskins homered had three RBIs for the Brewers, whose 18 hits were their most in three years. Every Brewers starter had a hit and eight had multiple hits. The bottom three batters in the order were 6 for 12 with four RBIs.

**GIANTS 7, DIAMONDBACKS 3**

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Patrick Bailey drove in three runs and had four hits, including a two-run homer into McCovey Cove, and San Francisco beat Arizona.

Bailey's home run off Zac Gallen (3-1) landed in a floating kayak and broke a 3-3, fifth-inning tie. It was the 165th splash hit since Oracle Park opened in 2000, the 103rd by a Giants hitter and the first by a switch-hitter since the Cubs' Robel García in 2019.

field that just eluded diving first baseman Bryce Harper. The 33-year-old right-hander struck out eight, walked two and allowed no runs while throwing 75 of 106 pitches for strikes.

**REDS 7, ANGELS 5**

**CINCINNATI (AP)**—Tyler Stephenson hit his first career grand slam in the first inning, Stuart Fairchild drove in two runs and Cincinnati beat Los Angeles to take the first two games of the three-game inter-league series.

Graham Ashcraft pitched into the sixth inning for the Reds, who were coming off a 7-1 win over the Angels on Friday night. The 26-year-old right-hander allowed all five Angels runs and five hits with four strikeouts and three walks.

**BRAVES 5, RANGERS 2**

**ATLANTA (AP)**—Charlie Morton combined with three relievers on a five-hitter and Atlanta beat Nathan Eovaldi and Texas for their sixth straight win.

The NL East-leading Braves have won the first two games of the weekend series against the Rangers, who lead the AL West.

**RED SOX 4, PIRATES 2**

**PITTSBURGH (AP)**—Kutter Crawford allowed one run in six strong innings and Boston defeated the struggling Pittsburgh.

Crawford (1-0, 0.66 ERA) struck out six and walked three. The 28-year-old right-hander gave up a season-high seven hits after not allowing more than three hits in any of his previous four starts.

**NATIONALS 5, ASTROS 4, 10 INNINGS**

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—Joey Meneses hit an RBI single in the 10th inning after Ryan Pressly blew the save in the ninth for Houston and Washington came back to defeat Houston.

Meneses led off the 10th against Seth Martinez (1-2) and lined his first pitch to the wall in right-center, scoring Nasim Núñez from second base with the winning run.

**GUARDIANS 6, ATHLETICS 3**

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—Josh Naylor hit a two-run homer and celebrated by striking himself on the helmet with his bat, providing Cleveland with the go-ahead run in a victory over Oakland.

Naylor's drive in the fifth off Alex Wood drove in Steven Kwan, giving Cleveland a 4-2 lead. The animated slugger delivered a two-handed smack to his head as the ball cleared the fence in right-center, then spiked the lumber onto the grass.

**PHILLIES 9, WHITE SOX 5**

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)**—Zack Wheeler pitched no-hit ball for 7 1/3 innings, Brandon Marsh homered and Philadelphia extended their winning streak to five by beating struggling Chicago.

Wheeler (1-3) didn't give up a hit until rookie Korey Lee's one-out single on a hard grounder into right

**ORIOLES 9, ROYALS 7**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)**—Craig Kimbrel tied Billy Wagner for seventh on the career list with his 422nd save, Anthony Santander had the first three-double game of his major league career and Baltimore rode a seven-run second inning to a victory over Kansas City.

Salvador Perez tied his career high with five RBIs for the Royals, who tried to overcome a 7-0 deficit, and hit a game-ending flyout to Colton Cowser in front of the left-field warning track.

**MARINERS 7, ROCKIES 0**

**DENVER (AP)**—Luis Castillo pitched two-hit ball over seven innings to win for the first time in five starts this season, Cal Raleigh homered among a career-high four hits and Seattle overcame intermittent rain and snow to beat Colorado.

Julio Rodríguez added four hits and two RBIs for the Mariners, who sent the Rockies to a sixth consecutive loss and dropped Colorado to 4-16—with four of the losses shutouts. The 20-game start is the worst in Rockies history.

**BLUE JAYS 5, PADRES 2**

**SAN DIEGO (AP)**—Daulton Varsho hit a three-run homer and José Berrios pitched six scoreless innings to lead Toronto to a win over San Diego.

Berrios (4-0) allowed six hits, struck out six and lowered his ERA to 0.85. He has won all four of his starts for Toronto, which has six victories in its last seven games.

Jordan Romano pitched a scoreless ninth for his second save.

*For God so loved the world, as to give his only begotten Son:  
that whosoever believeth in him may not perish but may have life everlasting. John 3:16*

# Susana Aquiningoc Villagomez Guerrero

**Fondly known as “Chana”**  
February 23, 1938 - April 17, 2024

She was predeceased by her parents †Luis Dela Cruz and †Vicenta Lewis Aquiningoc Villagomez; siblings and spouses †Lucia V. and †Venusto Arizapa; †Jose A. and †Gloria G. Villagomez; †Alice V. Pangelinan; †Edward A. and †Rufina B. Villagomez, and parents-in-law †Joaquin Cabrera and †Consolacion Iglesias Deleon Guerrero.

†Chana will be forever remembered for her unwavering devotion to God, endless love, and cherished memories by her husband, **Jose Iglesias Guerrero**

Children and spouses, [grandchildren, and (great-grandchildren)]

**Luis V.** and Evelyn S. Deleon Guerrero [Nicollette and Joey (Joseph and Avelina), Alexsander and Francine (Evan and Ronan), Ty and Jolyn (Kira), and Jose]  
**Leona V. Deleon Guerrero** and John M. Tudela [Suvanna and Jacob]  
**Nikonia G.** and Thomas F. Tudela [Tommy]  
**Christopher B. Deleon Guerrero** [Carlos and Liana]

Chana's loving, caring, thoughtfulness, and kindness will stay in the hearts of her sisters and spouses, in-laws, and their families.

**Sisters:** Rita V. and Juan P. Tenorio, and Margarita A. Villagomez

**In-laws:** Concepcion Villagomez San Nicolas; Alfredo I. and Remedio C. Guerrero; Artemio I. and †Mercedes SN. Deleon Guerrero; Delfina DLG. and Mike Sherman; Rosa DLG. and †Herman Pablo; Rita O. and Antonio Rivera; †Crispin I. and †Catherine F. Deleon Guerrero and Pinky G. Deleon Guerrero; Efrain I. and Hilda G. Deleon Guerrero; Joaquin I. and †Rosita B. Deleon Guerrero; Winifreda DLG. and Felix Mendiola; Lorenzo I. and Sinforosa V. Deleon Guerrero; Begonia DLG. Cruz, Antonio I. and Lourdes S. Deleon Guerrero; Jesus I. Deleon Guerrero and †Josepha K. Camacho, and †Juan I. and Viola S. Deleon Guerrero

She will be greatly missed by her caregiver Lisa Fetalevero.

Mass for the repose soul of Susana is offered daily at 6:00 a.m., at Kristo Rai Church, except Wednesday, 6:00 p.m., and Saturday, 5:00 p.m. The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Thursday, April 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral, followed by the Rite of Committal at the Mount Carmel Cemetery where she will be laid to peaceful rest.

**For all your love, thoughts and prayers,  
THANK YOU yan SI YU'US MA'ASE.**

*Jose Iglesias Guerrero, children and family*



# Nuggets beat Lakers for the ninth straight time, win 114-103



**DENVER (AP)**—Nikola Jokic had 32 points and 12 rebounds, and the defending NBA champion Denver Nuggets powered past LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers 114-103 in their Western Conference playoff opener Saturday night.

Two other Nuggets players posted double-double—Jamal Murray (22 points, 10 assists) and Anthony Gordon (12 points, 11 rebounds)—and Michael Porter Jr. came close with 19 points and eight boards.

James had 27 points for L.A. and Anthony Davis had 32 points and 14 rebounds, but the Lakers lost to the Nuggets for the ninth consecutive time and Denver handed James just his fourth loss in 17 first-round openers.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope, who scored all 12 of his points after halftime, made a trio of 3-pointers in a 13-0 run the Nuggets used to seize control in the third quarter.

Porter excelled on the court, as coach Michael Malone predicted he would, after a trying week for his family that saw one younger brother, Coban Porter, sentenced to six years in jail for a fatal drunken driving crash on Friday and another, former Toronto Raptors guard Jontay Porter, banned from the



AP  
Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic (15) goes up to shoot against Los Angeles Lakers forward LeBron James, right, during the second half in Game 1 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series Saturday, April 20, 2024, in Denver.

NBA for betting on basketball and disclosing confidential information to other bettors.

## TIMBERWOLVES 120, SUNS 95

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)**—Anthony Edwards scored 18 of his 33 points in the third quarter and had nine rebounds to carry Minnesota in a tone-setting victory over Phoenix to start the first round of the playoffs.

Karl-Anthony Towns added 19 points, Nickeil Alexander-Walker scored 18 points on 7-for-12 shooting and Rudy Gobert locked down the lane with 14 points, 16 rebounds and constant shot-altering defense to lead the Wolves to their first Game 1 home win in the playoffs in 20 years.

Kevin Durant scored 31 points on 11-for-17 shooting to lead the Suns, whose disadvantages in depth and size were exploited. Devin Booker had 18 points on 5-for-16 shooting and Bradley Beal added 15 points, but the Suns were outrebounded 52-28 and outscored 52-34 in the paint by the Wolves.

Game 2 is in Minneapolis on Tuesday before the best-of-seven series shifts to Phoenix for Game 3.

Edwards led a 19-4 run to close the third quarter, stretching his arms wide to connect with the crowd after a couple of his biggest shots down that stretch. He stared and barked at Durant, who could only grin at the 22-year-old's bravado.

With 3:37 left, Edwards put the bow on this performance by stealing the ball from Durant — after Gobert had poked it loose—and finishing with a slam on the other end.

## KNICKS 111, 76ERS 104

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Jalen Brunson and Josh Hart each scored 22 points, Deuce McBride led a huge effort by New York's backups with 21

as they beat Philadelphia in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference first-round series.

McBride outscored the 76ers by himself with 13 points in the second quarter, when Joel Embiid had to leave after appearing to reinjure his surgically repaired left knee on a dunk. He returned and rallied the 76ers into the lead in the second half, but Josh Hart hit a couple big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter to help the Knicks pull it out.

Hart also had 13 rebounds for the Knicks, who had lost Game 1 the last three times they opened a series at home. They host Game 2 on Monday.

Embiid finished with 29 points, eight rebounds and six assists. Tyrese Maxey led the 76ers with 33 points.

## CAVALIERS 97, MAGIC 83

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—Donovan Mitchell scored 30 points, Jarrett Allen had 18 rebounds and Cleveland beat Orlando in Game 1 of their Eastern Conference playoff series.

Evan Mobley added 16 points for Cleveland, which got bullied and bounced in just five games by the New York Knicks in the 2023 postseason.

That experience scarred the Cavs, who entered these playoffs more confident, deeper (at least on paper) and relatively healthy after a regular season filled with injuries.

Mitchell has been slowed for two months with a left knee bone bruise, but the All-Star guard moved well and looked much more like himself as Cleveland's only viable offensive threat for more than two quarters.

Orlando's Paolo Banchero scored 24 points in his playoff debut, but had nine turnovers. The Magic shot just 33% from the field—some of it attributed to bad shooting, some of it because of Cleveland's defense.

## GCA

From page 16

as she cruised through the courts despite a slight injury. She scored a game-high 17 points, while Paulette Somol contributed 6.

Meanwhile, TMS' Kayshlie Agnon was the lone scorer for her team and put up their total of 14 points.

In other results that night, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School notched their first win as they defeated Chacha Ocean View Middle School, 19-13; and Dandan Middle School varsity overwhelmed their junior varsity team, 20-4.

After GCA and HMS in the varsity standings is DMS with a 4-1 record; FMS is at

1-3; TMS has a 1-4 record; MCS are at 2-3; and COVMS have yet to win at four losses.

The championship round starts on May 2-3, with the championships set for May 4 at 12pm.

**GCA 21** — Camacho 13, A. M. Fatailofa 4, A. V. Fatialofa 2, Pua 2.

**MCS 13** — Villagomez 6, Flores 4, Quitugua 2, Arriola 1.

**Scoring by halves:** 15-4; 21-13.

**HMS 30** — Enriquez 17, Somol 6, Ayuyu 2, Esakova 2, Ferrer 2, Castro 1.

**TMS 14** — Agnon 14.  
**Scoring by halves:** 24-2; 30-14.

## CHAMP

From page 16

18.2-lb catch.

The side bet of the biggest wahoo went to the *Betty Ann* with a 31.6-lb catch.

The sun-kissed Torres said in an interview after the event that the day was "superhot. Our boat

was the only one with no tarp."

As for his winning catch, he said they went through the waters off Tinian, then made their way back to Obyan and caught it somewhere in between. The fight with the 26.4-lb mahi was a quick one as it was less than 10 minutes, and when Torres saw his catch, he knew that was



LEIGH GASES

Third place went to the boat *Sea Wind* captained by Marcelino Tresenio, left, who poses for a photo during the awards ceremony of the SFA's 20th Mahi Fishing Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina last Saturday.



LEIGH GASES

Crew of second place *Gabby Jo* poses for a photo during the awards ceremony of the SFA's 20th Mahi Fishing Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina last Saturday.

the biggest one he could get.

With their first place win, their boat and crew successfully defended their title after they won last year's derby with a 26.2-lb mahi, and with that, Torres said, "we're very lucky."

Torres' crew included anglers C.J. Echalico and Erick Basa. They plan to join all the upcoming

ing fishing derbies this year.

Torres then thanked the SFA for the event despite the delays. "I know these guys worked very hard to put this all together, but we just want to thank them even though it was delayed. We're happy that everybody went out and enjoyed it and came back safely," he said.

## SANDLOT

From page 16

Kaipat and Luis Iguel did their job and brought them home.

But then, the Natives found their spark and scored 3 in the third and three in the fourth to tie it up, 6-6.

Natives pitcher Keahi Omupas and the defense behind him had a tough time keeping

the game tied as 3 more runs would score for Sandlot from mishaps on the field to make it 9-6 at the end of the fourth.

It was a battle of lefty pitchers as Sandlot pitcher Reid Teregyo tried his best to keep the lead. He maneuvered through the Natives' lineup in the fifth and kept the score at 9-6. However, Sandlot's offense was at a standstill as well and the game

remained tied at 9-6.

Then, Sandlot's Lamar Iguel and Angailen scored again in the sixth to make it 11-6. The Natives had a chance to rally in the seventh after they scored one in the sixth for a 11-7 game.

The Natives' spirits were still high as they hacked away at Sandlot's lead with a run by Cameron Tomai. Larson

Sibetang then scored later to make it 9-11, but Sandlot's defense and pitching held on and registered the minimum three outs to secure their first win of the season.

In other results last Wednesday, the Royals slipped past the White Sox, 10-9, and the Braves got one in the win column after a 6-2 game over Blue Shark.





Mets extend win streak to six, beat Dodgers 6-4.

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

Nuggets beat Lakers for the ninth straight time, win 114-103.

PAGE 15



16 MONDAY, APRIL 22, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 10-7 repeats as Mahi Derby champ



LEIGH GASES

Crew of 10-7 poses for a group photo with their winning catch and Saipan Fishermen Association members during the awards ceremony of the SFA's 20th Mahi Fishing Derby at the Smiling Cove Marina last Saturday.

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

The boat 10-7 captained by Keith Torres seized the sweltering hot Saturday once again in the Saipan Fishermen's Association's 20th Mahi Fishing Derby with a 26.4-lb mahi caught off the islands' waters.

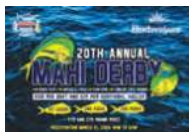
It was third time's the charm as the derby finally got underway after two postponements due to inclement weather, and in an awards ceremony at the Smiling Cove Marina, SFA awarded Torres and crew with the first place plaque and the \$2,500 cash award.

Second place for \$1,500 was

the boat *Gabby Jo* with a 23.1-lb haul captained by Jesse Tenorio.

Third for the prize of \$1,000 was *Sea Wind* with a 21.1-lb catch captained by Marcelino Tresenio, while fourth place was *Mama Loling's* 19.5-lb mahi that was captained by Cecilio Raiukiulipy, with fifth place *Peska Dufus* from an

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## Sandlot bags first win in SBL

By LEIGH GASES  
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Sandlot bagged their first win in the 2024 Saipan Baseball League after an 11-9 victory over the Natives last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Sandlot channeled their inner child and had fun in their first game of the season as they tacked on runs first for

a 3-0 lead. The Natives were down on their luck as they went scoreless in the first two

innings and gave way to 3 more runs for Sandlot who made it 6-0.

At this point, Sandlot's third batter in the order,

Lamar Iguel, got on base twice and scored twice, just as cleanup hitter Kimo Angailen did. The middle of their lineup including Byron

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## GCA, HMS undefeated in girls MS hoops

By LEIGH GASES  
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles and Hopwood Middle School Hilitais are undefeated so far in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 after they won their games last Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Lady Eagles squeezed their fifth win in as many games after their win over the Mount Carmel Lady Knights, 21-13, while HMS won their fourth in as many games with



LEIGH GASES

Grace Christian Academy's Aaleyah-Melisa Fatialofa goes up for an uncontested layup during their game against Mount Carmel School in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

a win against Tanapag Middle School, 30-14.

GCA's Neveah Camacho

got things going with a basket and followed it up with a 3-pointer to get a headstart over

the Knights. The Knights didn't score until much later after unsteady ball handling.

The Lady Eagles' momentum put them up with a big lead but MCS' Anjoelena Villagomez added 3 more points. However, GCA's Camacho added 6 more points and with 2 from Aaleyah-Melisa Fatialofa and Wylenn Pua, they were up, 15-4 at the end of the first half.

GCA kept up their momentum but not without say from MCS' Villagomez and Cassidee Flores as they tried to close the gap. Time ended though and GCA won by 8 points as Camacho finished with 13 points and Fatialofa put up 4.

For HMS, Maria Enriquez led the way to their fourth win

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LEIGH GASES

A Sandlot runner slides to second base in the nick of time as Natives' second base man juggles the pickoff throw from the catcher during their game last Thursday in the 2024 Saipan Baseball League at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.